

# Prehistoric Maps

***The Piri Reis map proves that the Earth's surface was measured and explored by an advanced civilisation long before the last ice age.***

**by Maurice Chatelain**

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*Ancient Skies*

vol 21, no. 3 - July-August 1994

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**T**here is now no doubt that advanced civilisations have existed on the Earth many thousand years ago before polar shifts, worldwide floods, ice ages and other natural phenomena changed the surface of our planet. Indisputable evidence can be found in the ruins of prehistoric monuments such as those of Tiahuanaco for example, or in ancient calendars such as the Mayan one which started in 49,617 BC or the Egyptian one in 49,219 BC. It should be noticed that the interval of 398 years between these two dates represents twenty conjunction periods of Jupiter and Saturn or 178 of Mars and Jupiter.

Another kind of evidence can be found in the mediaeval maps of the Earth showing the Antarctic continent free of ice with its lakes, rivers and mountains which have now been covered with several thousand metres of ice for several thousand years. According to their authors, these maps were copies of prehistoric maps they had found in the Library of Alexandria before it was burned three times—once by the Romans, once by the Christians and once by the Arabs.

The mediaeval map designers did not know the existence of the American and Antarctic continents but had already navigated around Africa. That is why some of their maps were centred on Africa with almost correct latitudes, longitudes and orientations, and completely wrong data for the other two continents. Fortunately, it has recently been possible to understand the causes of their errors and reconstruct some of the original prehistoric maps that they had used to design their own maps several thousand years later.

The best mediaeval map I know is one which was designed in 1513 by a Turkish admiral named Piri Reis and discovered in 1931 in the old imperial palace of Topkapi in Istanbul. I have a full-size colour copy of that map which a friend of mine had brought me from Turkey a few years ago. The map was designed on a gazelle skin which must have been shrinking during the last five hundred years. The remaining part of it, less than one half in width, has a north-south length of 91 cm and an east-west width of 63 cm. The design was based on a circle divided into 16 sections separated by 16 small circles 22 1/2 degrees apart around the circumference. The map represented a plane circular projection of a spherical cap of the Earth as it could be seen by an astronaut from a high altitude above Egypt. The centre of the circle is missing and only five small circles remain, enclosing an angle of 90 degrees or one quarter of the circle.

I recently decided to calculate the original angles and dimensions of the map from the intervals between small circles, which were the only clues I had. I found that the centre of the circle must have been located at the intersection of the meridian of Alexandria at 30 degrees east and the Tropic of Cancer at 23 degrees north. That could have been the position of the equator when the original prehistoric map was designed, probably more than twelve thousand years ago when the South Pole was in a different location and there was no ice on the Antarctic continent or the sea water around it.

According to the experts, the gazelle skin must have been shrinking by about one percent since the map was designed almost 500 years ago. And since the spacing between small circles is now about 209 mm, it can reasonably be assumed that the circular map was designed in 1513 AD with a circumference of 3,388 mm, a radius of 539 mm, and a spacing between small circles of 211.75 mm. Strangely enough, these dimensions would correspond to exact multiples of the pyramid inch of 25.666 mm which I have described in previous articles as a fraction of a land mile of 1,848 metres—namely, 132, 21 and 8 1/4 inches, with the usual  $\pi$  factor of 22/7. That would make sense since the Turks were ruling Egypt at that time and knew the dimensions of the prehistoric maps in the Library of Alexandria and those of the Great Pyramid before they removed the casing stones.

Assuming a reduction scale of one for twelve million, these dimensions would have represented on the surface of the Earth a hemispherical projection with a radius of 6,468 km and a circumference of 40,656 km, which could have been the equatorial circumference of the Earth a long time ago when the axial rotation of the Earth was faster than it is now. However, from a high altitude of 4,300 km above Egypt or 10,800 km above the centre of the Earth, an astronaut could only see 80 per cent of its circumference, corresponding on the Earth to 32,525 km or 3.388 metres on the map with a scale of 1/9,600,000 or 1 millimetre for 9.6 kilometres.

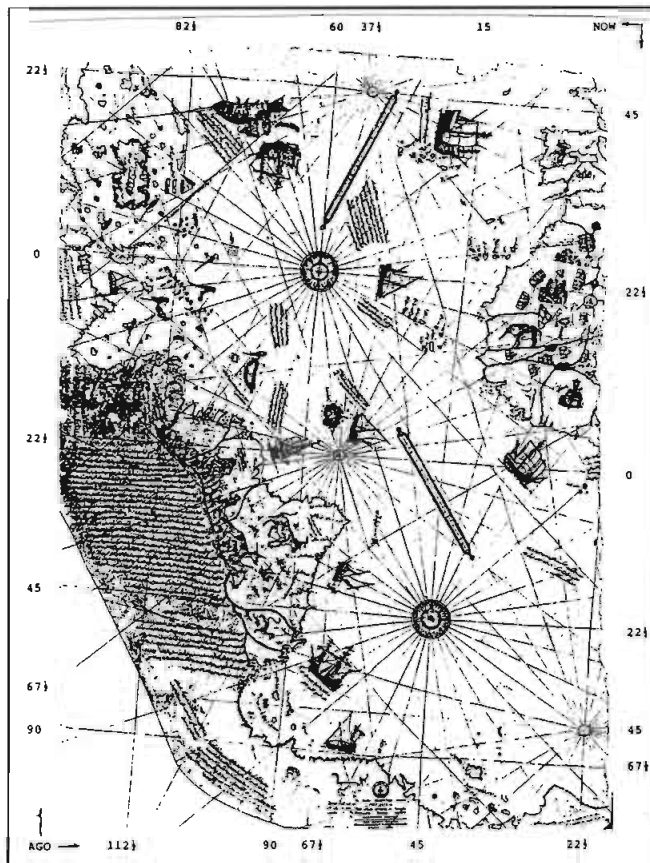
In comparing the angles and distances on the Piri Reis map with those of a corresponding modern map, I made an interesting discovery. In the northern section of the mediaeval map, the distances from the centre of the circle to such places as Cape Lagos in Spain, Tangiers, Agadir, and Ifni in Morocco, were exactly the same as those measured on the modern map. But on the southern part of the map, the distances in millimetres between the centre and Cape Juby, Villa Cisneros, Cape Bianco, Dakar, Freetown and Cape Palmas were increasingly shorter on the mediaeval map than on the modern map. And I found the explanation.

The north-south axis from Cape Lagos in Spain to Cape Palmas in Liberia is oriented to an approximate azimuth of 345 degrees on the mediaeval map, while it is oriented to 355 degrees on the modern map. In other words, the tilt of ten degrees to the west on the mediaeval map could explain why the distances are the same on the northern coast of Africa and different on the Southern coast.

I had always thought that the mediaeval map was correct inside the circle but I was wrong. The scale and measuring units were correct, but the azimuths were wrong with a tilt of ten degrees to the west of north. I did not try to make any calculations or measurements out of the circle since many others had already done it and proved that the islands, coasts and rivers had been copied from several different prehistoric maps and placed on the mediaeval map at random, with wrong latitudes, longitudes and orientations, and therefore

could not be used to redesign the original prehistoric maps. Another explanation would be that spherical trigonometry was used for the projection, making distances on the map shorter as they were farther from the centre. That also would indicate an advanced civilisation.

Another strange fact about the mediaeval map is that it does not show any tropical or Antarctic circles. That could indicate that when the prehistoric map was designed, the rotation axis of the Earth was perpendicular to the plane of the ecliptic.



There were no seasons and the climate was always the same at any given latitude. If the equator really was at 23 1/2°N and 30° E in Egypt, which is the most logical explanation for the map, the North Pole must have been at 66 1/2°N and 150°W on the Arctic Circle in Alaska, and the South Pole at 66 1/2°S and 30°E on the Antarctic Circle in the Rilsner Peninsula. That also could explain why there was no ice in the Bay of Ross from 40,000 to 30,000 and from 15,000 to 5,000 years ago.

The eastern part of the mediaeval map is the most interesting. It shows large lakes that do not exist any longer and rivers much wider than they are now, when they still exist. This could indicate that at that time the sea level was much higher and the climate much warmer, and explain why

there was no ice on the Antarctic continent which, also, was farther from the South Pole. The equator was 23 1/2 degrees farther north than it is now and Stonehenge in England, for example, was at 27.72°N and enjoyed a warm climate like that of Tampa in Florida now. That could also explain why prehistoric navigators knew the existence of northern islands such as Svalbard, now at less than 10 degrees from the North Pole and inaccessible to modern sailors.

In France, Brittany had a large inland lake and its western tip was an island. In Spain, a large lake in the centre was feeding two large rivers now called the Tagus and the Guadalquivir. In Morocco, a large lake in the Sahara was feeding the Sebou River. In Mali, a very large lake near Bamba was feeding wide rivers such as Gambia, Senegal and Niger, whose delta near Port Harcourt is out of the map. There is an important dimension, the distance between Cape Palmas and the Antarctic coast, which seems to be 8,400 km on modern maps and should therefore be 700 mm on the mediaeval map, while it is only 385 mm on that map. That discrepancy could have been made on purpose by Piri Reis so that he could include, at the bottom of his map, the Antarctic continent which he probably considered as imaginary, since it was only discovered on 18 November 1820 by an American seal hunter named Nathaniel Palmer.

The map of Piri Reis, made from several prehistoric maps, constitutes indisputable evidence of the existence before the ice ages of an advanced civilisation which had already explored and measured the entire surface of the Earth. It also indicates that the equator has not always been where it is now, and that prehistoric maps had been designed with an inch of 25.666 mm which is contained 9,000 times in the base length of 231 m of the Great Pyramid. That also indicates that a long time ago there existed on the Earth an advanced civilisation that could observe the surface of Africa from an altitude of 4,300 kilometres. ∞

Mr Chatelain is a retired space scientist. His book, *Our Cosmic Ancestors*, a classic in the ancient astronaut field, is available in over-size paperback; several other books available in photocopy format. For prices and ordering information, write to Maurice Chatelain, 3976 Kenosha Ave, San Diego, CA 92117, USA.